

# Columbus Day to Honor Three

Three outstanding Italian Americans will be honored at this year's Columbus Day Banquet to be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Mirage Banquet Center in Clinton Township. The general public is invited to at-

tend. Tickets are \$65 and include an open bar, a fabulous Mirage dinner, award ceremonies, and entertainment by Mark Randisi. For tickets, call 2005 Columbus Day Chairman Dominic LaRosa at (586) 915-8898.



**AL LORENZO**

Macomb Community College President  
Lifetime Achievement Award in Education

**A**lbert L. Lorenzo, 62, is the President of Macomb Community College, and is now the longest serving community college president in Michigan. He began his career in public accounting, and then joined the Macomb staff as an assistant professor, teaching accounting and management. He later served as the college's Business Manager, Controller, and Vice President for Business. He became the College's fourth president in July of 1979.

Though Lorenzo's father was born in America, both of his grandparents emigrated from a small town near Naples, Italy, in the late 1890s. The family settled initially in upstate New York where his grandfather worked on the railroad. He eventually moved to Detroit to join the auto



**CARMELLA SABAUGH**

Macomb County Clerk  
Italian American Woman of the Year

**C**armella Sabaugh, Macomb County Clerk, has amassed many accomplishments during her tenure. Among others, she was the first county clerk in Michigan to use computerized scanning and indexing for the register of deeds. She also started a "Mobile Branch Office" to bring clerk's office services to people who are unable to drive to Mount Clemens during working hours. She was also the first county clerk in Michigan to offer jurors summoned for jury duty free bus rides to and from the courthouse. In addition, she was the first in Michigan to accept credit card payments for court filings and vital records, making paying for services easier.

In essence, Sabaugh is making life easier for people in her commu-



**JOHN 'GINO' CAVALIERE**

Developer  
Italian American Man of the Year

**J**ohn ("Gino") Cavaliere was born in Pignataro Interamna, Italy, province of Frosinone on November 7, 1939. Pignataro is a small village of approximately 2,500 people located between Rome and Naples, which lies in the shadows of the famous Abbey of Monte Cassino, the scene of one of the most infamous World War II battle sites.

Cavaliere lived his formative years during the War. "I remember the War," says Cavaliere. "I remember when the Germans occupied our house. In 1944-45 when the war intensified, we had to move like refugees. We went to a town in Serentino and lived there for six months. When the war was over in Cassino, we moved back to our home, but the house was damaged from the bomb-



## Al Lorenzo, Macomb College President Lifetime Achievement Award in Education

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vating," he says, "something I didn't experience here. "The minute we arrived in town, somebody started cooking, and within a matter of a couple of hours there was a feast. If we drove in at 4 p.m. by 6 there were 25 or 30 people in one of the homes ready to have dinner, talk, laugh, bring out the wine, and go from there."

Lorenzo is highly respected as an educator and innovator, and has helped to shape educational, economic, and workforce development policies on both the state and national level. He has served on several corporate boards, has been a member of three national educational advisory panels and several state Commissions. He was a member of the recent Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, and he currently serves on Governor Granholm's Council of Economic Advisors.

Lorenzo holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, a masters in business administration, and a doctorate in administration. He has taught in the fields of accounting, management, and educational administration, and has lectured at more than a dozen universities nationwide.

His position at MCC is much like the CEO of a large company. "Macomb has grown to an organization spending \$125 million a year," he says. "We generate more than 2,000 jobs. Most of my time is spent planning, budgeting, in governance, human resources - essentially trying to set the course for the institution.

On being selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, he said, "This award recognizes my contributions as an educator - and it is very special to me."

Lorenzo and his wife Katherine live in Clinton Township, and both are actively involved in civic and volunteer programs. They have four children and eight grandchildren, all currently living in Michigan.

## Carmella Sabaugh, Macomb County Clerk Italian American Woman of the Year

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girls, she says, "Warren was a good place to raise a family."

Though she has Italian roots on both sides of her family, her mother died when Sabaugh was just 8, and she was raised primarily by her father's side of the family. Her father hailed from just outside of Milan, Italy, and she still has family back there.

"We got to see my father's side of the family side in 1993," she says. She met her namesake, an Aunt Carmella, on that trip, one of her father's sisters, now deceased, for whom she was named. She enjoyed the trip immensely. "I really had a sense of my dad's family - and a sense of myself," she says. It was familiar. Cugiano, the town her dad grew up in, is a rural, farming community. "My grandmother and aunt were both seamstresses," she adds. "And both sewed vestitures for the church."

Sabaugh remembers attending the opening of the Italian Cultural Center in Warren, a few decades back. "I did join [the Cultural Center] at one time," she said. "In fact, I took classes in Italian there."

An avid cook, she makes homemade pasta, ravioli and lasagna. "Pesto pasta is my favorite," she says. She even grows fresh basil and rosemary in her garden.

"I love being Italian," says Sabaugh. "Since I was raised primarily by an aunt and uncle, Italian tradition really, for me, is making dinner and having everyone over. When I first ran for office, I had a pizza recipe and I put my recipe in the flyer. Everyone loved it.

Sabaugh is proud of her Italian heritage. "Italians are such hard workers," she says, "and what I love about Italians is their honesty."

Upon hearing of her selection as Women of the Year, she said, "It's such an honor. This is the very first time I've ever been honored for anything. I'm very, very happy."

## John "Gino" Cavaliere, Developer Italian American Man of the Year

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In 1960, the Cavaliere family moved to Detroit in the pursuit of a better life and ultimately, the American Dream. "My mother had a brother here in Detroit," he explains.

In 1962, Cavaliere started a construction company in which he is still active.

That same year, he married Fara Garrisi and they had two sons, Dr. Salvatore and Lorenzo, and one daughter, Lisa Mancini. John and Fara now enjoy the company of seven grandchildren.

As a family, they still return to Italy every year in September. "Every third Friday of September we have a big family reunion on our farm in Italy," he says. "We have between 150-200 people at the dinner." About 40 to 50 of those people come from the States.

Cavaliere has been active in many charities and organizations including the Americans of Italian Origin Society and the Italian Cultural Center. "I'm very much Italian," he says.

A philanthropist, he also established a family foundation to benefit the schoolchildren of his hometown of Pignataro. Each year he awards three academic scholarships to the most outstanding students.

Though his wife, Fara, is from Sicily, the family enjoys traditional Italian cuisine. "My wife learned to cook from my mother," says Cavaliere.

He and his wife have three children: Salvatore, 42; Lisa, 40; and Lorenzo, 35. His son, Lorenzo, works with Gino in the family business.

Upon learning he would be honored as Italian American Man of the Year, he said, "It's a great honor. I'm very flattered that they chose me."